

COLDWATER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

Monday March 14, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

The governing body of the City of Coldwater met in regular session, with the following present: Mayor Joe Ceballos presiding, Council members Mike Bushnell, Robert Cardoza, Cleta Lampe, Britt Lenertz and Ashta Rosson, Public Works Director Danny Shaw, Co-Lake Manager Don Dutton, Chief of Police Devon Duffield and City Clerk Kristal Sherman.

Mayor Ceballos called the regular council meeting to order, City Clerk, Kristal Sherman conducted roll call. Minutes from the February meeting were approved as written, motion by Mike, seconded by Robert and all voted Yes.

Public Works Director Danny Shaw told the council Dennis Byram has asked the City to tear down the trailer house by Byram Manufacturing in the 300 block of East Main St. After discussion, the council agreed it would be an improvement to Main Street to have it torn down and asked Danny to figure a price what it would take to tear it down. Danny told the council he has an employee that wants to go to the Rural Water Conference March 29th, 30th & 31st to take training for his wastewater certificate, and both he and Charlie need credit hours for certificate renewal. He said he doesn't know what to do since they all three shouldn't be gone at the same time. Ashta asked if there were other workshops/conferences to get hours besides the water conference. After discussion, it was decided that Danny and Charlie should go to the water conference at the end of the month and then find Jason a class for his wastewater certification he can take separately. Danny asked the council to go into executive session for personnel reasons. Ashta made a motion the council go into executive session for 20 minutes for personnel reasons and include the city clerk, seconded by Mike and everyone voted Yes. After returning to open session, Mayor Ceballos announced there were no decisions made in executive session.

Lake Manager Don Dutton reported Debbie should be back sometime next week. Don said with the new boundary situation at the campsites, he can see a problem of parking and not sure what to do with the cargo trailers, horse trailers, etc. that people bring out. Discussion was held on the parking situation, and the boundaries are for their campers, they should be able to park where they have always parked before. The council did discuss making the ones with cargo trailers, horse trailers, etc... park them elsewhere so it wouldn't look so cluttered, and discussed different places those could be parked. Don reported he got the floor in Locust Cabin done and still needs to finish Ryan's Cabin.

Chief of Police Devon Duffield told the council he didn't have much to report, he is going to a class on March 31st and will get his wisdom teeth out on the 22nd.

City Clerk Kristal Sherman told the council that Lynn Johnson (one of our seasonal campers) works at the Boot Hill Museum and they are having a silent auction fundraiser for the museum on Friday, April 1st and asked if the City would be interested in giving a night or weekend at a lake cabin for a donation. The council agreed to offer a weekend in a cabin and thought it would be good advertising to do so.

Mayor Ceballos said he has been made aware there is a "no truck" sign by the entrance into Jeff Blundell's business at his home and wondered about getting it moved. Danny said he would rather move it than get rid of it and move it south of Jeff's house. Cleta made a motion to move the "no truck" sign a block and a quarter south of where it sits now, seconded by Britt and everyone voted Yes.

Kristal told the council she had contacted Kayla Snyder and she has agreed to be the pool manager for the 2022 summer. The council was happy to hear she has agreed to run the pool again this year.

Mayor Ceballos said he would like to see the banners put back up on main street. Danny said there were two different colors, the green canvas ones and red, white & blue vinyl ones. Joe asked Danny to see if there was enough banners to just go down the main street poles.

Mayor Ceballos said he wanted to discuss the employee sick leave....he is asking the council to raise the amount of hours the employees can accrue, or whenever they max out their hours, start a sick leave pool with the extra hours. Discussion was held....Kristal said there isn't an employee that will max out their sick leave this year, but she has totaled her hours from when she was maxed out from 2017 thru August of 2021 and said she lost 286 hours, and wondered if they would agree to use those hours to start up the pool. Ashta made a motion to start an employee sick leave pool with 286 hours and to cap the sick leave hours at 1,000 and the employee will need to get council approval to use hours from the pool. The motion was seconded by Cleta and everyone voted Yes. The council also discussed letting Rodney Keith use some hours to get him by until he can return to work, hopefully the first part of April. Ashta made a motion to approve Rodney Keith 80 hours from the sick leave pool to be paid at the end of March, seconded by Britt and everyone voted Yes.

Mayor Ceballos asked Danny where he was in getting the "Slow Children At Play" signs voted on at the last meeting, Danny told Joe he has them ordered.

Mayor Ceballos said the starting wage for full-time employees is currently at \$12.00/hour, which he thinks is too low. He said "if we want to get good applicants, we need to raise the starting pay higher than \$12.00 and would like to raise it to \$14.00/hour." With little discussion, Britt made a motion to raise the starting full-time wage from \$12.00 to \$14.00 per hour, seconded by Robert and everyone voted Yes.

Mayor Ceballos asked the council to review the employee evaluations and discuss wages. Ashta made a motion to go into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss city employee evaluations and wages, seconded by Cleta and everyone voted Yes. After returning to open session the following pay raises were given:

- Danny Shaw - \$1.00/hr from \$28.82/hr to \$29.82/hr (based on 170 hrs a month)
- Rodney Keith - \$1.00/hr from \$18.00/hr to \$19.00/hr
- Charlie Austin - \$1.00/hr from \$16.00/hr to \$17.00/hr
- Jason Roberts - \$1.50/hr from \$14.50/hr to \$16.00/hr
- Kristal Sherman - \$1.00/hr from \$22.50/hr to \$23.50/hr
- Melissa McGuire - \$1.00/hr from \$10.50/hr to \$11.50/hr
- Don Dutton – Apr.-Sept. \$2,500.00/mo (from \$2,225.00/mo) Oct.-March \$12.00/hr
- Debbie Dutton-Apr.-Sept.\$2,000.00/mo (from \$1,750.00/mo) Oct-March \$11.00/hr
- Lake Staff will start from \$10.00/hr to \$11.00/hr
- Lake Mowers/Summer Help will start from \$9.00/hr to \$11.00/hr.
- Greg Herrmann - \$2.00/hr – from \$10.50/hr to \$12.50/hr
- Lynda Cooley - \$2.00/hr – from \$11.25/hr to \$13.25/hr
- Rustin Martin – from \$2,500.00/yr to \$2,750.00/yr
- Johnita Stalcup – from \$275.00/yr to \$500.00/yr
- Devon Duffield - \$2.00/hr from \$14.58/hr to \$16.58/hr (based on 200 hrs a month)
- Kayla Snyder - \$2.00/hr from \$14.00/hr to \$16.00/hr
- Ashton Cardenas - \$1.00/hr from \$10.50/hr to \$11.50/hr
- Lifeguards - \$1.00/hr from \$9.00/hr to \$10.00/hr

Ashta made a motion to approve the raises listed above, seconded by Cleta and everyone voted Yes.

Bills in the amount of \$96,892.53 were presented for payment. Robert made a motion to pay the bills as presented, seconded by Cleta and all voted Yes.

Under New Business Kristal informed the council Peoples Insurance Agent Leasa Huck has been searching for a new insurance policy since Berkshire Hathaway is no longer going to be insuring Cities and has canceled the City's policy effective April 1, 2022. Leasa said she is confident the City will get a quote from a company any day now.

With no other business presented, Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m., seconded by Cleta and all voted Yes.